REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in view of the Office Action dated July 28, 2004. Claims 1-11 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 4-7, 10 and 11 being in independent form. By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 4-7, 10 and 11 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention, without introducing any new matter or new issues.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,104,504 to Imai et al. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Imai in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,671,270 to Yoshida. Claims 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Imai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,384,927 to Mori.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 4-7, 10 and 11, as amended, are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

The present application relates to facsimile communications operation by a receiving (or called) facsimile apparatus using optional frames. The claimed invention allows the called facsimile machine to reduce the risks of error in communication with a calling facsimile machine which does not adhere to the common specifications of optional frames. The called facsimile machine checks the identification information of the calling facsimile machine which identifies the calling facsimile machine. If the identification information of the calling facsimile machine does not correspond with prestored identification information for the different machines which adopt the common specification of optional frames, optional frames are not used by the receiving facsimile machine for facsimile communications with the calling facsimile machine. On the other hand, if the identification information of the calling facsimile machine corresponds to the

prestored identification information, facsimile communications operation using the optional frame is performed by the receiving facsimile machine.

Imai is directed to use by a calling station of a selective polling signal (SEP). Imai describes assignment of a document sheet number by a calling station to a polling document sheet for a destination station, when the polling document sheet is stored. Imai discloses that the document sheet number can include the telephone number of the destination (i.e. called station). The document sheet number is registered and then used to identify the destination of the corresponding polling document sheet. Imai also teaches that if the called station has a selective polling function, selective polling is initiated by the called station transmitting a DIS signal to the calling station to notify the calling station that the called station has the selective polling function.

Applicant does not find a disclosure or suggestion by Imai, however, of (a) prestoring in a memory at the called station identification information which identifies a plurality of different facsimile machines having common specifications of optional frames, (b) comparing at the called station identification information of the calling facsimile machine which identifies the calling facsimile machine on the one hand, with on the other hand the identification information prestored in the memory, (c) canceling performance of the facsimile communications operation using the optional frame when the identification information of the calling facsimile machine does not correspond with the identification information prestored in the memory, and (d) executing the facsimile communications operation using the optional frame when the identification information of the calling facsimile machine corresponds to the identification information prestored in the memory, as described in claim 1.

Yoshida is directed to a facsimile communications procedure by which a transmitting station can notify a receiving station that optional signals such as a subaddress signal (SUB), a

password signal (PWD) and a selective polling signal (SEP) will be transmitted. According to Yoshida, the transmitting station transmits a digital transmit command (DTC) signal to notify the receiving station whether a transmit command signal includes a password signal and a selective polling signal, and transmits a digital command signal (DCS) to notify a remote station whether the receive command signal includes a password signal and subaddress signal. As described in column, 6, line 50 through column 7, line 25 of Yoshida, the receiving station checks for the presence of the SUB, PWD and DCS signals (amongst others).

Column 11, line 6 through column 12, line 64 of Yoshida discloses that the receiving side station registers a single password, and a password signal (PWD) is transmitted from the transmitting station to the receiving station to satisfy security requirements of the receiving station. The PWD signal transmitted by the transmitting station must match the single registered password at the receiving station. If the PWD signal does not match the registered password at the receiving station, the receiving station refuses the communication. Thus, the password has a security purpose, and is not for identifying the transmitting station as being one of a plurality of different facsimile machines having common specifications of optional frames. Moreover, the mechanism of Yoshida for announcing the use of optional signals, as mentioned above, is transmission by the transmitting station of a DTC or DCS signal.

Imai, as understood by Applicant, is directed to an Internet facsimile machine which stores subaddress information associated with destination terminals and mail addresses of Internet facsimile machines which provide a repeater operation for information destined to the terminal associated with a specified subaddress (see column 10, lines 27-39 of Mori). Thus, the cost of facsimile transmission through an international PSTN (public switched telephone network) can be avoided by transmitting instead through the Internet.

Column 10, lines 1-6 of Mori discloses use of a Group 3 facsimile modem. Column 11, line 66 through column 13, line 18 discloses a process executed by the repeater machine for transmitting image information received from an ordinary facsimile machine through a Group 3 reception procedure via the international PSTN, to a second repeater machine, including converting subaddress information to a domestic telephone number, if applicable.

However, Mori does not purport to provide a procedure for a called station to check whether a calling station corresponds to one of a plurality of different facsimile machines having common specifications of optional frames. More specifically, Mori, like Imai, fails to disclose comparing at the called station identification information of the calling facsimile machine which identifies the calling facsimile machine on the one hand, with on the other hand identification information prestored in memory which identifies a plurality of different facsimile machines having common specifications of optional frames.

Applicant finds no disclosure or suggestion by the cited art of a facsimile communication method for performing a facsimile communications operation using an optional frame signal wherein the method includes receiving a call from a calling facsimile machine for a facsimile communications operation using an optional frame and identification information of the calling facsimile machine which identifies the calling facsimile machine, comparing the identification information of the calling facsimile machine with the identification information prestored in the memory, canceling performance of the facsimile communications operation using the optional frame when the identification information of the calling facsimile machine does not correspond with the identification information prestored in the memory, and executing the facsimile communications operation using the optional frame when the identification information of the calling facsimile machine corresponds to the identification information prestored in the memory,

as described in independent claim 1.

Independent claims 4-7, 10 and 11 are patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

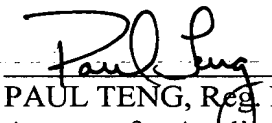
In view of the claim amendments and remarks above, and this application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this response and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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